

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.
The Bombardment of Fort Jackson.
SUPPOSED CAPTURE OF NEW-ORLEANS.
RELIEF FOR FLAG-OFFICER FOOTE.
Operations of the River Flotilla.
AFFAIRS IN AND ABOUT FREDERICKSBURG.
IMPORTANT BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS.
The French Minister's Visit to Richmond.

New-York Tribune.

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THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT JACKSON.
The Rebel story that the Union squadron at Fort Jackson fired 25,000 13-inch shells is absurd, and so is the Rebel hope that our ammunition will give out; 25,000 would be more than all of that caliber which were thrown during the siege of Sevastopol. It is known positively that there was official intelligence at Richmond on Monday that the bombardment began on Friday and continued through Saturday and Sunday, that the firing from the boats was pronounced excellent, but that it was said that "no Rebel was hurt." The fact that this news was kept out of the papers and the tenor of *The Day Book's* dispatch lead to the opinion in high quarters that New-Orleans is by this time ours.

RELIEF FOR FLAG-OFFICER FOOTE.
Some days ago Flag-Officer Foote requested the Navy Department to relieve him from active duty, accompanying his letter with the certificate of three physicians, that his leg was so much swollen in consequence of his wound at Fort Henry, that he required rest. The Department appreciating the inestimable value of Com. Foote to the service, has declined to accede to his request, but has ordered Capt. Charles H. Davis, whom Capt. Foote has several times indicated as the successor whom he would choose, immediately upon the conclusion of his present labors as President of the Board, charged with the duty of examining the Stevens Battery, to report to Flag-Officer Foote for duty. Com. Foote can thus, by making Capt. Davis second in command, be relieved from arduous physical labor, and at the same time retain a general supervision of the operations which are to drive the Rebels from the Mississippi Valley.

OPERATIONS OF THE RIVER FLOTILLA.
Capt. Wyman, commanding the River Flotilla, arrived at the Navy-Yard in the Yankee, to-day, from the mouth of the Rappahannock. He reports that on Tuesday afternoon, as the Anacostia was coming down the river, when near Lowry's point, she was fired into by a small body of Rebel infantry. Some three or four volleys were fired, some of the balls striking near the steamer. She immediately returned the compliment with a couple of 9-inch shells, which dispersed the Rebels.

The boats of the flotilla within a few days have captured seven more schooners, some of them well freighted, thus increasing the number of prizes to sixteen, two of which are steamers. Capt. Wyman was on Sunday at Fredericksburg, where he freely communicated with the inhabitants. Their feeling toward the Rebel troops quartered there was not one of affection. The soldiers, they said, knew no law but the will of their commander, and were in the habit of imposing men and stealing property. Except about 500 cavalry, who remained to watch Gen. McDowell and burn the bridges, all retreated about three days before his advance to Stafford, a distance of thirty miles from the Richmond Railroad.

Capt. Wyman describes the river as a broad stream as far up as Tappahannock. Beside the small work at Urbana, at its mouth, where one gun, which has been carried to Richmond, was mounted, the only fortification is Fort Lowry, on a low, sandy point. It has mounted seven guns, of which three had been carried away, and four were thrown into the river. But it was so situated as to be easily shelled by gunboats. Capt. Wyman believes that at any time since the war began a force could, for all that, the Rebels could have done to prevent, have been landed at Tappahannock, which is only 42 miles from Richmond.

Between that place and Richmond, however, the river becomes too narrow for a gunboat to turn around, and flows between banks from 30 to 100 feet high, except where there are swamps. The only fortification is one earthwork, ten miles below Fredericksburg, at the point where the schooner was found sunk in the channel. But the banks are too high for the cannon of the gunboats to serve, and a small force of infantry, with a few field-pieces, could have prevented the ascent of the river by boats, unless supported on shore.

THE CASE OF GEN. LOCKWOOD.
In the case of the resignation by the Senate of the nomination of Gen. Lockwood, a motion to reconsider was entered.

RENOMINATION OF GEN. SICKLES.
The President, to-day, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of War, renominated Gen. Daniel E. Sickles as a Brigadier-General. The President, in announcing his purpose to re-nominate Sickles, said that the records of the War Department proved Gen. Sickles to be a good officer.

EMBRACING DEAD SOLDIERS.
A special order has been issued from the War Department, conferring upon Drs. Brown and Alexander, and such Assistant Surgeons as they may appoint, the right to exhumate the dead of the United States Army anywhere within the lines, either in camp or on the field, and to follow up the advance of the land forces.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.
A general order has been issued from the Adjutant-General's office directing that all the lock-chutes, boats, locks, and other property belonging to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, on the line of said canal, now held, used, or occupied by this United States Army or troops be forthwith given up and returned to the President of the said Company. All officers of the army are ordered to respect Alfred Bates, esq., as President of the said Company, are prohibited from interfering in any manner with him in the management of the canal, but are directed to fire him such aid and assistance as is consistent with the good of the service, in keeping it in repair, and restoring all restrictions which have been imposed upon the boats navigating the said canal. The President of the said Canal Company is authorized to use all passes that may be required to be used on the canal, subject to the approval of the Commander of the District.

DEATH OF MAJOR TALBOT.
In order from the Adjutant-General's office announcing the death of Major Theo. Talbot, chief of Gen. Wadsworth's staff, given a brief sketch of his life, and directs the officers of the Adjutant-General's Department to wear the badge of mourning for thirty days.

GEN. HARTSUFF ON DUTY IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT.
Brig.-Gen. George L. Hartsuff, Assistant Adjutant-General United States Army, has been assigned to special duty in the War Department from the 14th inst.

THE SAN FRANCISCO AND CHINA MAIL.
Whatever credit is due for the passage of the bill establishing a line of steamers between San Francisco and Shanghai belongs to Senator Latham of California.

PRIVATE ACTIONS AGAINST PUBLIC PERSONS.
Senator Wade's bill, concerning private actions against public persons, after a long preamble setting forth the condition of the country, and the fact that the President has found it necessary to arrest traitors, on probable cause, and to seize their property, provides that in order to prevent vexatious actions against persons so acting under the President, all such actions shall be tried in the United States Courts, whether those pending in State Courts shall be transferred, upon the application of the defendant acting forth the facts on affidavit.

Such suits may be continued, at the instance of the defendant, from time to time during the continuance of the rebellion. The declaration of the plaintiff must be set forth that the act complained of was done by the defendant in his official or ministerial capacity, also that such act cannot be given in evidence. Persons arresting such officers by civil process may be punished by fine and imprisonment. Aggrieved parties may petition Congress, which reserves to itself exclusive jurisdiction.

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW-YORK.
Representative Mallory, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, to-day reported a bill to facilitate the transportation of troops and mails between Washington and New-York, which makes the general direct line of railroad from New-York to Washington via Philadelphia and Baltimore, with their connections and such branches as may be necessary to complete the connections of military and postal roads in the United States service.

To facilitate the transportation of troops and mails, the railroad companies in question are authorized under the Secretary of War to improve and complete their connection in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Private property to be compensated, and locomotives not to run in the streets at a rate exceeding eight miles per hour.

THE PUNISHMENT OF TREASON.
Senator Cowan's bill, amendatory of the Act of 1790, for the punishment of crimes, provides as a supplemental punishment of treason, beside the punishment declared in that act, that the Court shall declare forfeit all the personal property of the convicted, and the real estate for the life of the convict, to the United States, the forfeiture to be carried into effect by the Marshal.

When a grand jury find an indictment of treason against a person not yet arrested, the Court can proceed to outlawry, judgment of outlawry not to be assessed until after three months from the issue of the first writ, such judgment to carry with it forfeiture as above. Slaves of convicts or outlaws to be free. On trial, general amnesty may be pleaded as the pardon of the President.

THE FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND.
There is still great anxiety to know whether the French Minister went to Richmond under instructions from the Home Government or not. It is believed that no one outside of the French Mission knows. Those who have conversed with Count Mercier, since his return, say that he is satisfied that all hope of reconstructing the Union upon any basis of concession or compromise are fallacious.

The Rebels can only be whipped into submission. Their talk is bold and determined, and they profess to be confident of conquering their independence. Jeff. Davis declared that his life and honor were staked upon the issue, and Wigfall talked of conquering a peace at Philadelphia. The visitor, however, saw facts that ill comported with these boastful declarations.

Little tea, coffee, wine, or ice was to be seen; water was almost the only beverage, and high prices on all things, giving abundant proof of the effectiveness of the blockade. The French Minister, we are assured, held no official intercourse with any Rebel, but conversed as a private person with the leaders, of whom many were old acquaintances. At Norfolk, he was greatly impressed with the effectiveness of the Merrimack.

MOVEMENTS OF THE DANISH AND SWEDISH MINISTERS.
Col. Raneloff, the Danish, and Count Piper, the Swedish Minister, have gone to Fortress Monroe. It is believed that they intend to follow the French Minister's example, and to extend their tour to Norfolk and Richmond.

MR. DAWES'S SPEECH.
The speech of Mr. Dawes in the House, to-day, was wonderfully entertaining to cool listeners. It is believed that a vote will be taken on the resolutions reported by the Warburton Committee, early next week.

RECEPTION OF THE MINISTER FROM SALVADOR.
We understand that Mr. Don Lorenzo Montufar presented his credentials to the President yesterday in the character of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Salvador. In announcing his mission, Mr. Montufar addressed the President in the following language:

[Translation.]
SIR: The President of the Republic of Salvador has done me the honor to accredit me Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the Government of the United States, as proven by the authentic letter which I have the honor to place in your hands.

My Government orders me to manifest to you that it earnestly desires the peace, the prosperity, and the glory of the United States over which you so worthily preside. The people of Salvador, progressive and entirely American, offer up their vows that the great people of the United States may ever prosper, and that the Republic founded by the immortal Washington may each day become more powerful and manifest stronger sympathies with the people of the American continent who profess their principles and love their institutions.

I am flattered by the hope that these sentiments will find a friendly reception, as well from you, Sir, as from the people of the United States, and that every day Salvador will become bound by closer ties of friendship to this great Republic.

To which the President replied:
MR. MONTUFAR: At any time the arrival of a Minister from San Salvador would be an interesting event. It is peculiarly so now. Rejoicings are being manifested in the adaptation to the highest interests of society—the preservation of the State itself against the violence of faction. Elsewhere on the American continent it is struggling against the incursions of anarchy, which invites foreign intervention.

Let the American States, therefore, draw closer together and unite and secure each other, and thus prove to the world that, although we have inherited some of the errors of ancient systems, we are nevertheless capable of completing and establishing the new one which we have now chosen. On the result largely depends the progress, civilization, and happiness of mankind.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE REBELS.
In addition to what has heretofore been asserted in

contradiction of the false statements of the Richmond papers, there is good authority for stating that Count Mercier, the French Minister, had no official communication whatever with the Southern authorities. The report that Lord Lyons has gone to Richmond, or is going, is as untrue as the recent unfounded rumors of changes in the Cabinet.

NAVAL PREPARATIONS.
The Navy Department is quietly but efficiently at work increasing the means of the national defense. The Atlantic Works and Harrison Loring of Boston have been awarded contracts for building iron-clad vessels under the recent law.

CONFIRMATIONS.
The Senate to-day, in Executive Session, confirmed the nominations of George Cadwallader of Pennsylvania and George H. Thomas of Virginia as Major-Generals, and Colonel Alfred H. Terry of Connecticut, Miles S. Haskell of Indiana, Major Henry W. Wessels of the 6th Infantry, Col. John W. Geary, Major Samuel W. Crawford of the 13th Infantry, and Leonard F. Rues of Indiana, as Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers.

Brig.-Gen. James W. Ripley to be Chief of Ordnance, and Wm. A. Hammond, as Surgeon-General, with rank of Brigadier-General. Also, Charles Y. Garrett, as Assistant Quartermaster, and Harvey A. Smith of Kansas, as Commissary of Subsistence.

REJECTIONS.
The Senate, it is said, rejected Nathan Reeve as Assistant Quartermaster, and the following as Brigadier-Generals: John Cochrane, H. H. Lockwood, Charles F. Clarke, and Charles A. Dana. John Trimble of Tennessee was confirmed as U. S. Attorney for the Middle District of that State.

A FLOATING HOSPITAL.
The Sanitary Commission will to-morrow dispatch the steamship Daniel Webster to Fortress Monroe as a floating hospital. She is to carry a large supply of hospital stores, medicines, clothing, ice, &c., and a corps of surgeons, nurses, and hospital dressers.

Several members of the Commission accompany them, for the purpose of completing the arrangements for the transfer of the sick and wounded.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

Supposed General Engagement at Pittsburg.

HEAVY FIRING HEARD IN THAT DIRECTION.

Successful Expedition on the Tennessee.

OUR GUNBOATS AT HUNTSVILLE.

Capture of Rebel Commissary Stores.

Chicago, Friday, April 25, 1862.
A special to *The Times*, dated Cairo to-day, says that passengers by the Belle of Memphis say that at Savannah they heard heavy firing in the direction of Pittsburg. The cannonading was brisk, and gradually grew louder, being heard for miles this side of Savannah.

The belief was that a gunboat engagement had taken place, and this was strengthened by the fact that on Wednesday significant preparations were made by Gen. Halleck for an attack.

Our gunboats on the Tennessee River had effected a passage over the Muscle Shoals, and penetrated as far as Huntsville, Alabama, where they captured a quantity of commissary stores.

Cairo, Friday, April 25, 1862.
The steamer Belle of Memphis and Chocoma, from Pittsburg Landing on Wednesday morning, arrived last night. They were fired into, 35 miles below Pittsburg, by a band of guerrillas from behind some dwellings on the left bank of the Tennessee.

The Chocoma received seven shots. Her mast was killed. The Belle of Memphis received twelve shots, mortally wounding one negro boy.

The roads at Pittsburg are improving. Skirmishing between the pickets continue.

The river here is still rising. The lower Mississippi is fearfully overflowed, causing the greatest loss of property ever known.

THE RUMORED ENGAGEMENT AT PITTSBURG DISCREDITED.

Chicago, Friday, April 25, 1862.
The rumor that fighting had commenced at Pittsburg is disbelieved at headquarters. Gen. Strong received dispatches from Gen. Halleck yesterday. No mention of any engagement was made.

THE INVESTMENT OF FORT WRIGHT.
St. Louis, Friday, April 25, 1862.
A special dispatch to *The Missouri Democrat*, from Com. Foote's gunboat flotilla, dated the 23d instant, says:

"All is quiet here, if we except two mortar boats, remaining in position, which occasionally throw shell over at Fort Wright.

The Rebels have not replied to day; none of their gunboats can be seen. The weather is fair. The flood has overrun all the plantations and houses along the river.

Great distress prevails among the inhabitants along the banks, some of whom order to give all they possess to save their families removed from their homes, which the water threatens to carry down the river.

THE CASE OF COL. JENNISON.
St. Louis, Friday, April 25, 1862.
An order has been issued for the release of Col. Jennison from military prison, he giving bonds of \$30,000 to appear and answer to whatever charges may be produced against him. The particular offense which led to Jennison's arrest has not been made public, but it is presumed all the facts will shortly be forthcoming. Jennison, on being arrested, immediately resigned his post in the army.

THE SOLDIERS' SANITARY COMMISSION.
Boston, Friday, April 25, 1862.
A concert will take place to-morrow night in the Music Hall for the benefit of the Soldiers of the Sanitary Commission. Many of our leading citizens, including Gov. Andrew, manifest a personal interest in its success.

LOSS OF A GOVERNMENT STEAMER.
Cincinnati, Friday, April 25, 1862.
The Government steamer Eunice was run into last night by the Commodore Perry, off Ashland, Ky., and sunk. The boat is a total loss. No lives were lost.

THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN.

THE EXPECTED BATTLE.

SPIRIT OF OUR TROOPS.

THE INTERCHANGE OF CIVILITIES.

From a Special Correspondent.
CAMP BEFORE YORKTOWN, April 20, 1862.
All is quiet upon the peninsula—quiet and damp. After nine days of weather so delightful that the epithet "Sunny South" had begun to seem appropriate, we are again subjected to Jupiter Pluvius, fast enemy to Mars. It began to rain yesterday at sunset; it rained all night—and very well known, for our Sibley tent is deficient of its top, and I was aroused at 3 a. m. by finding my head, feet, and side subjected to an involuntary shower-bath. It is raining now, with perseverance worthy of a better cause.

As I write, in a Robinson Crusoe-like log hut, constructed without the use of nails, by the ingenuity of Dr. A. P. Heichold of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and used as a hospital, I look out of the doorless entrance upon a cheerless prospect of drenched fir-trees, mud, and puddles, the latter dimpled by the fast-falling rain, which comes down not slantwise or intermittently, but straight and steadily, as if bent on fulfilling its rheumatic and diarthritic mission.

The sacred soil, by the way, does not absorb water so rapidly as is desirable, in which respect our men might prudently imitate it. Disregarding the excellent advice of the Sanitary Commission (I wish it were more generally distributed—an order for reading it aloud to the men at stated times might be of service), when rendered thirsty by heat or fatigue, they drink indirectly of water strongly impregnated with vegetable decomposition, and so qualify themselves for establishments similar to that in which I write.

Perhaps it was in recognition of the non-absorbent qualities of the soil that a young woman of Big Bethel told a soldier I know that she confidently expected, within a week, to "walk over her shoe-tops in Yankee blood," adding that she should certainly avail herself of the opportunity.

That agreeable pronouncement, however, can hardly be indulged in at such an early period. We are before Yorktown; we hope to take it; but, like all desirable things in this world, it has a price. At first, we underestimated this; now, I think, there is some danger of our running into the other extreme. Naturally, but contrary to our justifiable expectations, the Rebels have made the best of a strong position, and evidently mean to defend it bravely, but the place is not a Sevastopol, I deprecate any sensation-reporting extant.

Two weeks ago, at the date of our arrival here, our complete ignorance of the enemy's preparations and intentions involved a high compliment to his secrecy and ability; since then we have been endeavoring to ascertain, with more or less success, the kind of work before us, and getting ready to do it—including the wounding of a certain amount of, perhaps invariable, erroneous performance. Our reconnaissance, our road making, our operations on the York River, mean this, our skirmishes being merely incidental.

These are only important as exhibiting the relative pluck and skill of the men engaged—in the letter of which, I think, our soldiers show a decided superiority. They will scarcely lead to a general engagement until we are ready and have discovered the vulnerable point, or until the Rebels abandon their usual policy by attacking us. In the mean time our national characteristic of living too entirely in the present, of passing rapidly from one phase of feeling to its opposite, is manifesting itself in exaggerated estimates of the strength of the Rebel defenses and anticipations of prolonged delay before the fight.

I write this with no misgiving as to the patriotism or courage of our soldiers, the majority of whom are singularly honest, straightforward and single-hearted in their convictions on the war and its origin, so much so that their example often contrasts refreshingly with those claiming higher culture—but the fact exists, and the habits of a soldier's life rather abet it than otherwise.

I would rather see a quiet recognition of the difficulty and danger impending, and a steadfast, earnest resolve to conquer both, come in what shape and at what time they may, than temporary elation, followed by impatience or discouragement. That our men will fight bravely I do not doubt; I wish the words existed to convey to you my sense of the tremendous responsibility of their leaders.

The Rebels are encamped at Yorktown defying us, their nearest lines within 1,500 yards of ours. When we shall join battle with them and how, only time will enable me to relate. It may be that Gloucester, with its two tiers of guns on the other side of the river, is the key to the position, or that the joint in the harness of proof will be discovered on the left or right of the line of intrenchments.

I have heard suggestions made, localities specified, but, although my signature is not yet appended to the new list of conditions to which I understand we of the press are subjected by Mr. Sanford, Government Censor, I respect them in advance, and intend to obey their requisitions as well as I know how. Apropos, I erred, from ignorance, only yesterday, when riding along the Yorktown road, in company with two friends, until dangerously near to the Rebel works.

We were compelled summarily to halt, told to consider ourselves under arrest, and ordered to report ourselves to our commanding officer. (I am doing that now.) Fifty offences of a similar character had been committed that day in the same place, by military gentlemen. There was reason in the check, for most "casualties" have their origin in incautious exposure, prompted by mere curiosity.

I raked becoming one two days previous, on visiting the scene of action on the 16th. A party of three, we sat on horseback surveying the line of hostile intrenchments, and the nearer earthworks thrown up opportunely by our men, while the more prudent sharpshooters crouched behind the chimneys of the burnt houses, or sought the cover afforded by trees and stumps; the Prince de Joinville, dismounted, conversing with them. A Rebel bullet aimed at us, complimented our discretion.

Our pickets are now posted in such proximity to those of the enemy that they frequently overhear the instructions given to them. Last night, or rather early this morning, the 105th Pennsylvania, being on duty, there occurred a little incident worth recording. Our men got to talking with the Rebels, presently agreeing on an informal truce.

"Have you heard of the Merrimack?" inquired

one of the latter. "Yes, and the Monitor!" was the reply. "How are you off for sugar now?" "Oh, pretty well; we get it out of the Southern ships we catch trying to run the blockade!" "Have you got a Yankee newspaper and would you like to exchange it for a Norfolk Day Book?" "Here's a N. Y. TRIBUNE!" which really happened to be the fact. "Come along then."

Accordingly, the possessor of THE TRIBUNE waded waist deep into the creek or bayou, to meet the Rebel soldier, who, better accommodated, put off in a boat to effect the desired barter, when the latter was summarily ordered to return by his commanding officer.

Another proposition, presumably, from a Marylander, who wanted to send a letter to his wife at Baltimore (and whose wish would have been gratified for our men, on condition of the submission of the contents of the epistle to their Colonel, that nothing of a treasonable nature might pass), proved abortive from similar distrust on the part of the enemy.

His regiments, by the way, are numbered after the old militia system. The particular one figuring in the above incidents was the 115th Virginia Volunteers.

YESTERDAY Gen. Smith sent a flag of truce to the Rebels, proposing an exchange of prisoners, the object more especially being to regain the wounded men in their possession. It took considerable time to obtain an answer, and when, after a lapse of several hours, it came, it was a refusal to accede to the proposition. The prisoners they said, had been sent to Richmond, with the exception of two who had died, Kibby and Sweetland of the 3d Vermont. In violation of every principle relating to flags of truce, the Rebels improved the temporary cessation of hostilities to set a gang of at least 1,000 negroes at work digging rifle-pits, and strengthening their works.

A remonstrance only produced a promise, the next instant broken, to cease. There is nothing in the world more certain than that we so completely command their works that the enemy cannot show a man, except in violation of faith on such an occasion as this. They habitually place negroes on the most exposed positions. During the previous bombardment by our artillery, and the scarcely more unerring firing of our sharpshooters, they thrust negroes forward to man their guns, and they were shot down by the dozen. Pending the truce on the 18th, seven persons, negroes no doubt, were seen carried away from one embrasure, where they were suffered to lie as they had fallen, because any attempt to remove them would only increase the number of victims.

These facts prove the wisdom of the bold advance of Gen. Smith on the morning of the 16th, and the sagacious reconnaissance later in the day. Had the step been postponed, the advance, if made at all, would probably have been made, as elsewhere, by regular approaches—at least at the cost of the struggle which the enemy, had they not been taken by surprise, would have made to dispute, and if possible retain, the ground from which they were swept by the sudden, not to say audacious, movement of Gen. Smith.

In the fore part of yesterday, three negroes escaped from the enemy in front by crossing the Warwick, and were taken to the headquarters of Gen. Keyes. One of them was a bright, intelligent young man, who related many things of interest. There were some things in his story, however, that prudence dictates should for the present be withheld from publication. This man (whose story was corroborated mainly by the other two) had been cook for a Rebel officer. He gives the Rebel force with minuteness. Gen. Magruder and Gen. Johnson have their headquarters at Lee's Mills, and Gen. Lee at Yorktown. At the position directly in front of us, known as Dam No. 16, Gen. Wilcox is said to be the commanding officer. It will be recollected, however, that Gen. Sumner, as commander of the position, communicated by flag of truce on the 18th.

The colored man describes Gen. Johnson and Magruder so accurately that he must know them. He confirms the previous confessions of the Rebels as to their loss, though the exact number he does not pretend to know. He says that the loss was spoken of as heavy. Among the killed at the time our artillery were playing on the enemy so furiously, were Col. Kinney of the 2d North Carolina Regiment, and a captain, whose name he did not remember. It is represented that the Rebels are far from confident of being able to maintain their position on this line of their defenses. The negro stated that word had been sent from Richmond that the Union army had struck into the country (probably referring to the movement up the Rappahannock), and were moving toward Richmond, and for the army of the Peninsula to hold itself in readiness to evacuate its present position and fall back to Richmond. During the firing by our artillery, it is represented that a shell exploded the only remaining barrel of whiskey in the neighborhood; and it is reported, also, that thereupon Magruder was so affected that he was for some time the object of much concern on the part of his friends. Magruder is incorrigible on the whisky question. All but one gun, a 6-pounder, were dismounted in the Rebel works.

Stated as we are, face to face with the enemy, our line is subject to constant alarm. Scarcely a night elapses without an alarm—sometimes two or three. The alarm with which our troops respond to the call and fall into line is well worthy of remark. I have on repeated occasions undertaken to make mention of the 5th Wisconsin, a regiment that stands so deservedly high, for all good qualities of the soldier and pioneer, as to challenge universal approbation; but my pencil or your type have persistently assigned the regiment to the sister State of Michigan, and she might well feel honored by it. Well, having got the right regiment this time, I will only relate what is perhaps equally true of other regiments—that on the first alarm-night, having turned in with their shoes off, the time they took to turn out, though prompt, was greater than they could wish. The next time, having kept their shoes on, they were out as soon as their officers; the next time they were out and in line in about one minute; and, report says, they sent a detachment to the officers—who were by no means tardy, however—informed them that they were ready and waiting, though not a single order had been given.

To-day the enemy manifest more enterprise than for the last few days. On our left, near Lee's Mills, two battalions of Mississippians and Tennesseans were thrown across the stream, where our pickets of the 7th Maine Regiment were posted. A sharp skirmish ensued, and the enemy were driven back. We had two killed and took one prisoner. The sharpshooters in the rifle-pits have made frequent attempts to pick our men off, but, up to the present writing, without success. After one of our men fell,

the Rebels came up and poured a volley into his dead body.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, SMITH'S DIVISION, April 17, 1862.
GENERAL ORDERS.—The Brigadier-General commanding congratulates the troops of this brigade for the conduct exhibited by them yesterday while under fire. The inviolability of spirit shown by those companies exposed to a terrific fire from the enemy, sheltered in the pits, is worthy of the highest admiration. The conduct of First Sergeant Holton, Company 1, 6th Vermont Volunteers, in securing and bringing back the colors of the regiment, after the banner was shot down, is deserving of special notice, as a praiseworthy and daring act.

Soldiers of Vermont, let your future conduct rival that of yesterday, and your friends and State may well be proud of you.

By order of Brigadier-General W. T. H. Brooks.
THEODORE READ, A. G.

Correspondence of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.
CAMP WYNDHAM, near Yorktown, Tuesday, April 23, 1862.

GEN. LEE IN COMMAND AT YORKTOWN.
Trustworthy information received here makes Gen. Lee in command at Yorktown and over the whole army. "Bull Run Johnston" did not remain, and to the proprietor of Arlington Heights is now considered the cure of the Rebel army.

THE REBEL EARTHWORKS BEYOND YORKTOWN.
From a correspondent who has escaped we learn that the Rebels have a force of near 20,000 negroes at work upon a new line of earthworks about seven miles from Yorktown, running from one river to the other. This is to impede the march of our army on Williamsburg, where they have a large amount of commissary stores. Should Yorktown fall, another series of fortifications is on this side of Williamsburg.

YORKTOWN SHELLED BY THE TOBAGO.
About noon yesterday the gun-boat Tobago ran up to within three miles of Yorktown, and opened on the town with one of her 105-pound shot and shell guns. We were sitting near the river bank, about a mile and a half this side of Yorktown, and could see every shot fired by her, and the replies. The first fell short and exploded in the air; the next two fell in the water near Yorktown, the fourth exploded right over the flag-staff in Yorktown, and was a splendid shot, considering there was a haze mist all around, making it very difficult for them to see such a distance; the next went over their fort and exploded in the water near Yorktown; immediately there was a hurrying to and fro, their long gun was run out, a flash was seen, a pillar of smoke rose, and whizz went a shell within half a mile of the Tobago! It was a good line shot. There was a pause here for a few minutes, when both fired at once: Seceah again made a miss of it, and our shell exploded right over their water battery.

The gun-boat now ran down to the mouth of the York River and turning round came up and running half a mile nearer than before, fired again. He first shot exploded with a loud noise, in front of their last battery; the next two fell short; the next fell within fifty feet of the water battery; the next two exploded on shore near their fort; two then exploded over their water battery, which is burnt-proof. All the loose Rebels were now lying in the trenches and discharging their rifles, and the fog crowd in thick that Yorktown was rapidly being enveloped, and the tide running out rapidly, the gun-boat ran back to the mouth of the river.

GEN. MAGRUDER AT YORKTOWN.—HE TREMBLES IN THE KNEES.
Gen. Magruder is at Yorktown, and has lost the brigades with which he was wont to march all the troops upon the peninsula, on the double-quick, down to Newport News last Fall and Winter, to give the Yankees a scare.

By the time he reached Bethel, however, he gradually considered discretion the better part of valor, and announced to his men that he had received reinforcements, and he would have to wait till they went away. He is represented as much depressed in spirits, and in conversation with other officers, says it is no use in fighting if they cannot stand at Yorktown; that we have an immense force here, as we will just overtake them, and ruin everything and everybody in our march.

THE COMMISSARY STORES, BAGGAGE, &c., MOVED TO THE REAR.
The commissary stores, ammunition, baggage, wagons, and everything movable, have been moved to the rear, and are now lying about two-and-a-half to three miles to the rear of Yorktown, and the whole line of their defenses.

NEGROES IN ARMS.—THEY FIRE UPON OUR PICKETS.
The commanding officer of the extreme left reported to headquarters that his men were fired upon, in the skirmish yesterday, by negroes uniformed and armed. This comes from undeniable authority. Now let the order go forth—no quarter to men fighting with Indians and negroes.

THE YORKTOWN BATTERY OPENS ON US.
The Yorktown battery fired occasionally a shot from their 100-pounder during last night, but they did no harm, except to rouse our men from their slumbers.

THE LINE OF FORTS RUNNING FROM YORKTOWN.
The line of forts runs from Yorktown in a nearly direct line toward the Warwick river, and not in a curve as some papers have it. But few men can be seen on them to-day, and very few about Yorktown. Where they have been fired at heretofore, now we see but an occasional sentinel.

THE REBELS FIRE INTO ONE ANOTHER.
On Sunday morning, two Rebel regiments near Winn's Mills, fell into one another, and fired volley after volley of musketry for several minutes, when they both ceased; a number of bodies were then carried away. Our riflemen could see the whole affair distinctly. It is supposed one of the regiments mutinied, and the other was sent to arrest them.

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. BANKS.
Capture of Prisoners.—The whereabouts of the Rebel Jackson.

New Market, Thursday, April 24, 1862.
To the Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Sir: Our advanced guard, Col. Donnelly commanding, took three prisoners to-day at a point five miles beyond Hartwood. One of them says he belongs to Company B, of the 10th Virginia Regiment of infantry. This regiment has been on the Rappahannock, according to previous information. The prisoner says the regiment joined Jackson at his present location near Stanardsville, from Calhapper.

N. P. BANKS, Major-General Commanding.

THE FIGHT AT SOUTH MILLS.
RELEASE OF OUR WOUNDED.—ARRIVAL AT FORTRESS MONROE.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA, APRIL 24, 1862.
To the Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Sir: Assistant Surgeon Warren, unconditionally released, with 17 prisoners and four attendants, arrived this evening from Norfolk. They were the wounded left on the field in the affair